



FORCE MANAGEMENT
POLICY

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAR 30 2001



MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ATTN: SENIOR OFFICIAL
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR
FORCE (MANPOWER, RESERVE AFFAIRS,
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)

SUBJECT: Authority to Reimburse Volunteers Who Participate in Military
Funeral Honors in the Authorized Provider Partnership Program (AP³)

This guidance provides further information on the authority to reimburse members of veterans' organizations and other organizations who participate with the military in providing Military Funeral Honors. Section 1491 (d) of title 10 allows the Secretary of a Military Department to provide reimbursement to these volunteers for their expenses. Department of Defense Directive 1300.15, "Military Funeral Support," section E3.4, further delineates this reimbursement authority and directs that the SF 1164 be used for this reimbursement.

The Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) incorporated this reimbursement authority into the DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 9, Chapter 4, section 0409. DFAS has also sent a request to the General Services Administration (GSA) for the SF 1164 to be revised to include an addition in the code section which states "Funeral Honors Detail." GSA has agreed to this revision. While the revised form is not yet complete, DFAS has advised us that the current SF 1164 may be used for reimbursing these Military Funeral Honors volunteers.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Military Services have received a number of inquiries about the reimbursement from Veterans Service Organization volunteers and members of Congress. It is our intention that this guidance clarifies the reimbursement authority and the means whereby it can be accomplished.



With the growing number of requests for Military Funeral Honors, it has become increasingly challenging for the Military Services to provide more than a two-person detail to fold and present the flag and play "Taps." The Veterans Service Organizations have indicated an eagerness to train and work with the military in providing additional elements of the funeral honors ceremony. Program Guidance on partnering with these volunteers may be found in enclosure (3) of DoD Directive 1300.15. We encourage the Military Departments to work with and train the members of these organizations in order to provide additional funeral honors elements that can add solemnity to the Military Funeral Honors ceremony.

We are currently working on the Authorized Provider Partnership Program (AP³) which promotes the partnership of Active and Reserve units with veterans and other appropriate organizations in performing Military Funeral Honors. The AP³ components include a training tape which demonstrates how military units can be augmented with volunteers from these organizations to provide additional elements of funeral honors, such as the firing of the three volleys. The tape is in production and will be available when we commence the entire AP³ effort. We will send the tape to all military units participating in Military Funeral Honors along with a pin to be given to those veteran volunteers who have trained with and are prepared to provide Military Funeral Honors in conjunction with the military. As part of this overall effort, we are also developing a website for commanders that will facilitate cooperation with veterans' organizations. The website will include such things as: a recognition certificate for those volunteers who have trained with the military in the delivery of funeral honors; instructions for reimbursement; Service policy regarding veteran access to clothing sales stores; and other relevant information and resources to facilitate this cooperation with the veterans organizations. We anticipate that the AP³ will be ready for implementation in late spring or early summer, 2001.

In order for this information to reach all appropriate units and staff, I request widest dissemination of this guidance including Reserve components.



Gail H. McGinn
Acting Assistant Secretary

cc:
OASD(RA)